



Enhancing Surveillance and Detection of Invasive Harmful Plant Pathogens and Pests

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Message from the Guest Editors

Globalization and climate change are significantly shaping the worldwide distribution of plant harmful organisms and alien invasive species. Effective surveillance strategies are critical to support prevention and biosecurity plant health programs. Early detection and correct identification of pests and disease agents require effective and sensitive diagnostic tools that NPPOs can adopt for implementing their monitoring programs to reduce risks posed by exotic and alien pathogens/pests. Nowadays, molecular methods and remote sensing approaches have improved the efficiency and the capability for inspections and for testing. But we need to go further and improve pathogen detection at the earliest stage of the infections as well as gather information on the genetics of the pathogen population(s), a crucial step for setting proper control actions. Likely, the next frontiers will be the use of high-throughput sequencing (HTS) technologies, the use of remote sensing approaches for prioritizing areas to be inspected, and the development of point-of-care tests (POCT), once validated and cost-efficient.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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